

# The Making of Modern Ukraine

Professor Timothy Snyder has very helpfully made the videos of his lectures for his history course, The Making of Modern Ukraine, available on YouTube.

He also made the course syllabus and lecture descriptions (including readings) available on his Substack. Unfortunately, he has recently switched his Substack to paid access, which prevents people from seeing which readings are associated with each lecture. I don't want to infringe on his copyright by reproducing his now-locked posts, but I thought some people might be interested to have a list of the associated readings for the course and for each lecture.

## Media

The lectures are located on at the following locations:

- **Video (YouTube):**
  - [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh9mgdi4rNewfxO7LhBoz\\_1Mx1MaO6sw\\_](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh9mgdi4rNewfxO7LhBoz_1Mx1MaO6sw_)
- **Audio (Apple Podcasts):**
  - <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/the-making-of-modern-ukraine/id1653131950>
- **Audio (Spotify):**
  - <https://open.spotify.com/show/0gwIT6SIDmPVdjAnN6NHft>

# Reading List

Students were expected “to have to hand” the books in the list below:

- Serhii Plokhii, *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine*
- Timothy Snyder, *The Red Prince: The Secret Lives of a Habsburg Archduke*
- Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*
- Peter Pomerantsev, *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible*
- Ivan L. Rudnyts'kyi, *Essays in Modern Ukrainian History* [[PDF](#) – Courtesy of the [Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Archives](#) ]
- Marci Shore, *The Ukrainian Night: An Intimate History of Revolution*
- Neal Ascherson, *Black Sea* (not assigned for any of the lectures)
- Timothy Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations* (not assigned for any of the lectures)
- Timothy Snyder, *The Road to Unfreedom* (not assigned for any of the lectures)

The following books and articles also feature as readings for the lectures:

- Serhy Yekelchuk, *Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation*
- Robert Crummey, *The Formation of Muscovy 1304-1613*, London: Longman,
- Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern and Antony Polonsky, eds., *Polin*, vol. 26, 2014
- John-Paul Himka, *Galician Villagers and the Ukrainian National Movement in the Nineteenth Century*, Edmonton: CIUS, 1988 [ [PDF](#) – Courtesy of the [Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Archives](#) ]
- Orest Subtelny, *Ukraine: A History*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1997
- Timothy Snyder, *Sketches from a Secret War*
- Matthew D. Pauly, *Breaking the Tongue: Language, Education, and State Power in Soviet Ukraine, 1923-1934*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014
- Serhy Yekelchuk, *Stalin's Empire of Memory*
- Serhy Yekelchuk, *The Conflict in Ukraine: What Everyone Needs to Know*
- Timothy Snyder, ["The War in Ukraine has Unleashed a New Word,"](#) New York Times, 22 April 2022
- Timothy Snyder, ["The War in Ukraine is a Colonial War"](#) New Yorker, 28 April 2022.
- Timothy Snyder, *"Integration and Disintegration: Europe, Ukraine, and the World."*, Slavic Review, 74(4), pp. 695-707

# Lectures

## Lecture 1: "Ukrainian Questions Answered by Russian Invasion"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/bJczLIwp-d8>

Reading:

- Yekelchyk, *Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation*, chapter 1.

## Lecture 2: "The Genesis of Nations"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/0LaEmaMAkpM>

Readings:

- Rudnyts'kyi, "The Role of Ukraine in Modern History" in Rudnyts'yi, [\*Essays in Modern Ukrainian History\*](#).

## Map Quiz

I used this online map quiz instead: <https://www.geoguessr.com/vgp/3205>

## Lecture 3: "Geography, Language, and Deep History"

Lecture video: [https://youtu.be/Om\\_A5TTQMm0](https://youtu.be/Om_A5TTQMm0)

Readings:

- Rudnyts'kyi, "Ukraine Between East and West" in Rudnyts'yi, [\*Essays in Modern Ukrainian History\*](#).
- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapter 1

## Lecture 4: "Before Europe"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/zhCK5uGJ3Tw>

Readings:

- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapter 2

## **Lecture 5: "The Kyiv State: Vikings, Slaves, and Law"**

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/36XiKhamtQo>

Readings:

- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapters 3-6

## **Lecture 6: "The Grand Duchy of Lithuania"**

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/IlvE6tgPEf8>

Readings:

- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapter 7

## **Lecture 7: "The Rise of Muscovite Power"**

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/CMpkBOTCgCM>

Readings:

- Crummey, *The Formation of Muscovy 1304-1613*, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-29), Chapter 4 (pp. 84-115), Chapter 6 (pp. 143-178)

## **Lecture 8: "The Jews of Ukraine"**

Lecture video: [https://youtu.be/Bp495Uz\\_Cq4](https://youtu.be/Bp495Uz_Cq4)

Guest Lecturer: Glenn Dynner

Readings:

- Dan Shapira, "The First Jews of Ukraine," in Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern and Antony Polonsky, eds., *Polin*, vol. 26, 2014, 65-78.
- Judith Kalik, "Jews, Orthodox, and Uniates in the Ruthenian Lands," in Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern and Antony Polonsky, eds., *Polin*, vol. 26, 2014, 131-146.

## **Lecture 9: "Polish Power and Cossack Rebellion"**

Lecture video: [https://youtu.be/\\_IBll--m7ql](https://youtu.be/_IBll--m7ql)

Readings:

- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapters 8-12

## Lecture 10: "Global Empires"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/Wdn0zcCXjQY>

Readings:

- *No assigned readings, but instructions were to begin reading The Red Prince by Timothy Snyder (the entire book is one of five assigned readings for Lecture 12)*

## Lecture 11: "The Triangle: Ottomans, Poles, Russians"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/hde-2h5eEQI>

Readings:

- Rudnyts'kyi, "Intellectual Origins of Modern Ukraine" in Rudnyts'yi, [\*Essays in Modern Ukrainian History\*](#).
- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapters 13-14, 16-17

## Lecture 12: "Habsburg Curiosity"

Lecture video: [https://youtu.be/WO\\_SuY-4Sow](https://youtu.be/WO_SuY-4Sow)

Readings:

- Rudnyts'kyi, "Ukrainians in Galicia Under Habsburg Rule" in Rudnyts'yi, [\*Essays in Modern Ukrainian History\*](#).
- Amelia Glaser, "Between Nation and Class: Nataliya Kobrynska's Jewish Characters," in Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern and Antony Polonsky, eds., *Polin*, vol. 26, 2014, 183-195.
- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapter 15
- John-Paul Himka, [\*Galician Villagers and the Ukrainian National Movement in the Nineteenth Century\*](#), Edmonton: CIUS, 1988.
- Snyder, *The Red Prince* (entire book)

## Lecture 13: "War, Republic, and Revolutions"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/Q9ciocrFK8w>

Readings:

- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapters 18-19
- Orest Subtelny, *Ukraine: A History*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1997, chapters 18-19
- Rudnyts'kyi, "The Ukrainian National Movement on the Eve of the First World War" in Rudnyts'yi, [\*Essays in Modern Ukrainian History\*](#).
- Rudnyts'kyi, "The Fourth Universal and Its Ideological Antecedents" in Rudnyts'yi, [\*Essays in Modern Ukrainian History\*](#).

## Lecture 14: "Poland's Ukrainian Question"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/9JUzxdeYRZc>

Readings:

- Rudnyts'kyi, "Polish-Ukrainian Relations: The Burden of History" in Rudnyts'yi, [\*Essays in Modern Ukrainian History\*](#).
- Timothy Snyder, *Sketches From a Secret War* (entire book)

## Lecture 15: "Ukrainization and Famine: The Soviet 1930s"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/1dy7Mrqy1AY>

Readings:

- Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands*, Chapter 1
- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapters 20-21
- Matthew D. Pauly, *Breaking the Tongue: Language, Education, and State Power in Soviet Ukraine, 1923-1934*, Conclusion

## Lecture 16: "Nazi Colonization and Extermination in Ukraine"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/Pi0wyvuNn4A>

Readings:

- Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands*, Chapters 4-5
- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapters 22-23
- Yekelchyk, *Stalin's Empire of Memory*, chapters 1-4

## Lecture 17: "Cold War and Neostalinism: The Khrushchev and Brezhnev Years"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/zRdNxx295r8>

Readings:

- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapters 24
- Yekelchyk, *Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation*, chapter 9

## Lecture 18: "Before and After the End of History"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/k7nM9SetN50>

Readings:

- Rudnyts'kyi, "The Political Thought of Soviet Ukrainian Dissidents" in Rudnyts'yi, [\*Essays in Modern Ukrainian History\*](#).
- Yekelchyk, *Stalin's Empire of Memory*, chapters 5-7, and Epilogue
- Ivan Dzyuba, "On the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Murders in Baby Yar" (and accompanying materials), in Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern and Antony Polonsky, eds., *Polin*, vol. 26, 2014, 381-389.

## Lecture 19: "Oligarchies in Russia and Ukraine"

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/2N2BDGKI0L8>

Readings:

- Plokhy, *Gates of Europe*, Chapters 26
- Serhy Yekelchyk, *The Conflict in Ukraine*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, chapter 4
- Peter Pomerantsev, *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible*, "Act 1: Reality Show Russia", pp. 1-77

## Lecture 20: "Maidan and Self-Understanding"

Lecture video: [https://youtu.be/Gg\\_CLI3xY58](https://youtu.be/Gg_CLI3xY58)

Guest Lecturer: Marci Shore

Readings:

- Marci Shore, *Ukrainian Night* (entire book)
- Peter Pomerantsev, *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible*, pp. 208-239

## **Lecture 21: "Comparative Russian Imperialism"**

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/IWRXLrJhqA0>

Guest Lecturer: Arne Westad

Readings:

- *(No assigned readings for this class)*

## **Lecture 22: "Ukrainian Culture in the Twenty-First Century"**

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/yz6MSiGZQCU>

Readings:

- Timothy Snyder, *"The War in Ukraine has Unleashed a New Word,"* [New York Times](#), 22 April 2022

## **Lecture 23: "The Colonial, The Post-Colonial, and the Global"**

Lecture video: <https://youtu.be/nLfFmYWjHtc>

Readings:

- Timothy Snyder, *"The War in Ukraine is a Colonial War"* [New Yorker](#), 28 April 2022.
- Timothy Snyder, *"Integration and Disintegration: Europe, Ukraine, and the World."*, *Slavic Review*, 74(4), pp. 695-707